

What is claimed:

1. A message waiting indication update feature, operable in a cellular communication network, for maintaining a count of the unread messages stored
5 for a subscriber who uses a mobile subscriber wireless communication device, comprising:

subscriber profile means for storing data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber;

10 border condition determining means for identifying that a cell last accessed by said mobile subscriber wireless device is on a border with a Mobile Switching Center other than the serving Mobile Switching Center;

Mobile Switching Center message indication means, responsive to the presence of unread messages in excess of those identified in said present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber, for transmitting data to
15 said other Mobile Switching Center.

2. The message waiting indication update feature of claim 1 further comprising:

20 message indication means, responsive to the presence of unread messages in excess of those identified in said present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber, for transmitting data to said subscriber indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber; and

subscriber acknowledgement means for storing data indicative of a present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber;

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3. The message waiting indication update feature of claim 1 further comprising:

30 Home Location Register means, associated with said subscriber's home Mobile Switching Center, for maintaining a profile for said subscriber comprising a set of data that identifies said subscriber, service authorizations for said subscriber, said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said

subscriber, and data indicative of a present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber.

4. The message waiting indication update feature of claim 3 further comprising:

registration means, operable in a serving Mobile Switching Center and responsive to said subscriber initiating a registration process from a mobile subscriber wireless communication device at said serving Mobile Switching Center, for transmitting a registration request message to said Home Location Register means, associated with said subscriber's home Mobile Switching Center; and

registration indication result means for transmitting said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber, and said data indicative of a present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber to said serving Mobile Switching Center.

5. The message waiting indication update feature of claim 4 further comprising:

register update means for storing said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber, and said data indicative of a present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber in a visited location register associated with said serving Mobile Switching Center.

6. The message waiting indication update feature of claim 4 wherein said message indication means comprises:

registration means, operable in a serving Mobile Switching Center and responsive to said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber, and said data indicative of a present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber indicating the presence of unread messages in excess of those identified in said present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber, for transmitting data to said mobile subscriber

wireless communication device indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber.

7. The system of claim 6 further comprising:

5 registration update means, responsive to said mobile subscriber wireless communication device acknowledging receipt of said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber, for transmitting a message to said Home Location Register means, associated with said subscriber's home Mobile Switching Center acknowledging receipt by said mobile subscriber wireless
10 communication device of said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber; and

register update means operable in said subscriber's home Mobile Switching Center for updating said data indicative of a present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber in said Home Location
15 Register means.

8. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

Home Location Register update means, responsive to a change in said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber, for
20 transmitting said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber, and said data indicative of a present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber to said serving Mobile Switching Center.

9. The system of claim 8 further comprising:

25 register update means for storing said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber, and said data indicative of a present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber in a visited location register associated with said serving Mobile Switching Center.

30 10. The system of claim 9 wherein said message indication means comprises:

registration means, operable in a serving Mobile Switching Center and responsive to said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber, and said data indicative of a present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber indicating the presence of unread messages in excess of those identified in said present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber, for transmitting data to said mobile subscriber wireless communication device indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber.

12. The system of claim 11 further comprising:

registration update means, responsive to said mobile subscriber wireless communication device acknowledging receipt of said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber, for transmitting a message to said Home Location Register means, associated with said subscriber's home Mobile Switching Center acknowledging receipt by said mobile subscriber wireless communication device of said data indicative of a present count of unread messages for said subscriber; and

register update means operable in said subscriber's home Mobile Switching Center for said data indicative of a present count of acknowledged unread messages for said subscriber in said Home Location Register means.